

The University of Chicago Library

Report for Directors of Technical Services of Large Research Libraries Discussion Group (Big Heads)

June 2006

Growth of Space for Collections

Planning continues for the design and occupancy of our on-site shelving expansion. As I reported in January, the Board of Trustees approved the project in the summer. The firm of Muphy/Jahn has been retained as project architect and preliminary planning is underway. The facility will contain shelving for 3.5 million volume equivalents in a high-density retrieval system (ASRS) as well as reader spaces and a new preservation/conservation department. It will be directly connected to the Regenstein Library and has a planned completion date of Spring 2009. We continue the preparation of materials for the eventual move – barcoding and inventorying, etc., while also planning for the temporary move of a significant portion of our collection to a temporary off-site facility. These materials will eventually be returned to campus and shelved in the ASRS. Additionally, we are weeding a far number of materials including duplicate monographs where one copy is sufficient as well as duplicative serial runs when the title is now available online.

CJK recon

Work continues on our CJK recon project. A contract has been signed with OCLC and they are working on the first batches of records. The completion of this project will mean that recon work will be finished for our collections.

Hidden Collections

Aside from the recon project for the remainder of our cataloged collections, we continue to assess and prioritize those items in our collection that have never been under full bibliographic control. A new inventory has been completed and work will now begin to prioritize and begin processing where appropriate.

Budget issues

The budget for staffing continues to be tight. Our cataloger who specialized in music accepted the position of Bibliographer for Music, and we will be recruiting to fill that position. We will also be recruiting for a cataloger with Hebrew skills.

The materials budget is relatively healthy and we have received another 6% increase for FY2007.

Electronic Materials

We continue to invest in electronic full-text resources and have recently purchased the remainder of the Elsevier backfiles (with the exception of the Lancet) as well as the Springer collections. We have also purchased the Making of Modern Law, the Making of the Modern Economy, Sabin, Shaw-Shoemaker, the Supreme Court Records and Briefs, the Chicago Defender and several other resources.

Vendor Supplied Catalog Records

We have been purchasing the Casalini full records for the pilot year and are very pleased with the quality of the records.

SARs

For the short term we will continue to do full series authority work as required and will continue to contribute SARs for new series as established. We view this as an interim solution until we have time to fully discuss the issue with our public services staff and until we know more about the effect of the LC decision including questions related to what other libraries plan to do, how OCLC will handle the files, and whether or not our authorities vendor will be able to assist us in some way. We will monitor the workload very closely and will make a long-term decision when we know more.

Archival access to digital materials

We are pleased to announce that we recently joined Portico as a member library.

Online Content Alliance

We have been working with the OCA on a pilot project to digitize a portion of our previously microformed titles. I will be able to report more by midwinter, but the project seems to be going well at this point.